

3485 of title 38 and the provisions of subchapters I and II of chapter 36 of such title (with the exception of sections 3686(a), 3687, and 3692)” for “sections 1670, 1671, 1673, 1674, 1676, 1682(g), 1683, and 1685 of title 38 and the provisions of subchapters I and II of chapter 36 of such title (with the exception of sections 1786(a), 1787, and 1792)”.

Pub. L. 102-568, § 319, struck out “1780(c),” after “exception of sections”.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 102-568, § 313(a)(6), substituted “section 3680A(b) of title 38” for “section 1673(b) of title 38”.

1991—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 102-16 struck out “1434(b), 1663,” before “1670,” and “1780(g),” before “1786(a),”.

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-510 substituted “Department of Veterans Affairs” for “Veterans’ Administration” in two places.

1989—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-189, § 645(a)(1), substituted “Secretary of Veterans Affairs” for “Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101-237, § 405(d)(3), inserted reference to section 1685 of title 38.

Pub. L. 101-189, § 642(c), amended first sentence generally and substituted “and the term ‘a person’, as used” for “, as used” in second sentence. Prior to amendment, first sentence read as follows: “Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the provisions of sections 1663, 1670, 1671, 1673, 1674, 1676, 1682(g), and 1683 of chapter 34 of title 38 and the provisions of subchapters I and II of chapter 36 of such title (with the exception of sections 1780(a)(5), 1780(b), 1786, 1787(b)(1), and 1792) shall be applicable to the provision of educational assistance under this chapter.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-237, § 422(b)(1), added subsec. (c).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective on the date of transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security, see section 1704(g) of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 105-368, title II, § 204(c), Nov. 11, 1998, 112 Stat. 3327, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and sections 3034 and 3241 of Title 38, Veterans’ Benefits] shall apply with respect to courses of flight training beginning on or after October 1, 1998.”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-446 effective Oct. 1, 1994, see section 601(d) of Pub. L. 103-446, set out as a note under section 3034 of Title 38, Veterans’ Benefits.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENTS

Section 405(e) of Pub. L. 101-237 provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 1685 [now 3485] of Title 38, Veterans’ Benefits] shall take effect on May 1, 1990, and shall apply to services performed on or after that date.”

Amendment by section 422(b)(1) of Pub. L. 101-237 effective Sept. 30, 1990, see section 422(d) of Pub. L. 101-237, set out as a note under section 16131 of this title.

Amendment by section 642(c) of Pub. L. 101-189 applicable with respect to any person who after Sept. 30, 1990, meets the requirements set forth in section 2132(a)(1)(A) or (B) [16132(a)(1)(A), (B)] of this title, see section 642(d) of Pub. L. 101-189, set out as a note under section 16131 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1985, applicable only to members of the Armed Forces who qualify for educational assistance under this chapter on or after such date, see section 705(b) of Pub. L. 98-525, set out as an Effective Date of 1984 Amendment note under section 16131 of this title.

#### SAVINGS PROVISION

Section 313(b) of Pub. L. 102-568 provided that: “The amendments made by paragraphs (2) through (6) of subsection (a) of this section [enacting section 3680A of Title 38, Veterans’ Benefits, amending this section and sections 3034 and 3241 of Title 38, and repealing section 3473 of Title 38] shall not apply to any person receiving educational assistance for pursuit of an independent study program in which the person was enrolled on the date of enactment of this section [Oct. 29, 1992] for as long as such person is continuously thereafter so enrolled and meets the requirements of eligibility for such assistance for the pursuit of such program under title 38, United States Code, or title 10, United States Code, in effect on that date.”

#### [§ 16137. Repealed. Pub. L. 112-81, div. A, title X, § 1061(29)(A), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1584]

Section, added Pub. L. 98-525, title VII, § 705(a)(1), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2567, § 2137; renumbered § 16137, Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title XVI, § 1663(b)(2), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 3006; amended Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title X, § 1077, Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 451; Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title V, § 548(a), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 609, required biennial report on the operation of the educational assistance program.

#### CHAPTER 1607—EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS SUPPORTING CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS AND CERTAIN OTHER OPERATIONS

Sec.	Purpose.
16161.	Educational assistance program.
16162.	Accelerated payment of educational assistance.
16162a.	Eligibility for educational assistance.
16163.	Authority to transfer unused education benefits to family members.
16163a.	Time limitation for use of entitlement.
16164.	Termination of assistance.
16165.	Administration of program.
16166.	

#### AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-252, title V, § 5006(e)(3), June 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 2386, added item 16163a.

Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, § 528(b)(2), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 109, added item 16162a.

#### § 16161. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to provide educational assistance to members of the reserve components called or ordered to active service in response to a war or national emergency declared by the President or the Congress, in recognition of the sacrifices that those members make in answering the call to duty.

(Added Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title V, § 527(a), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1890.)

#### § 16162. Educational assistance program

(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of each military department, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, shall establish and maintain a program as prescribed in this chapter to provide educational assistance to members of the Ready Reserve of the armed forces under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned.

(b) AUTHORIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Educational assistance may be provided under this

chapter for pursuit of any program of education that is an approved program of education for purposes of chapter 30 of title 38.

(c) **BENEFIT AMOUNT.**—(1) The educational assistance program established under subsection (a) shall provide for payment by the Secretary concerned, through the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, an educational assistance allowance to each member entitled to educational assistance under this chapter who is pursuing a program of education authorized under subsection (b).

(2) The educational assistance allowance provided under this chapter shall be based on the applicable percent under paragraph (4) to the applicable rate provided under section 3015 of title 38 for a member whose entitlement is based on completion of an obligated period of active duty of three years.

(3) The educational assistance allowance provided under this section for a person who is undertaking a program for which a reduced rate is specified in chapter 30 of title 38, that rate shall be further adjusted by the applicable percent specified in paragraph (4).

(4) The adjusted educational assistance allowance under paragraph (2) or (3), as applicable, shall be—

(A) 40 percent in the case of a member of a reserve component who performed active service for 90 consecutive days but less than one continuous year;

(B) 60 percent in the case of a member of a reserve component who performed active service for one continuous year but less than two continuous years; or

(C) 80 percent in the case of a member of a reserve component who performed active service for—

- (i) two continuous years or more; or
- (ii) an aggregate of three years or more.

(d) **MAXIMUM MONTHS OF ASSISTANCE.**—(1) Subject to section 3695 of title 38, the maximum number of months of educational assistance that may be provided to any member under this chapter is 36 (or the equivalent thereof in part-time educational assistance).

(2)(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or chapter 36 of title 38, any payment of an educational assistance allowance described in subparagraph (B) shall not—

- (i) be charged against the entitlement of any individual under this chapter; or
- (ii) be counted toward the aggregate period for which section 3695 of title 38 limits an individual's receipt of assistance.

(B) The payment of the educational assistance allowance referred to in subparagraph (A) is the payment of such an allowance to the individual for pursuit of a course or courses under this chapter if the Secretary of Veterans Affairs finds that the individual—

- (i) had to discontinue such course pursuit as a result of being ordered to serve on active duty under section 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12302, or 12304 of this title; and
- (ii) failed to receive credit or training time toward completion of the individual's approved educational, professional, or vocational objective as a result of having to discontinue, as described in clause (i), the individual's course pursuit.

(C) The period for which, by reason of this subsection, an educational assistance allowance is not charged against entitlement or counted toward the applicable aggregate period under section 3695 of title 38 shall not exceed the portion of the period of enrollment in the course or courses for which the individual failed to receive credit or with respect to which the individual lost training time, as determined under subparagraph (B)(ii).

(e) **AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE FOR LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION TESTS.**—The provisions of section 16131(j) of this title shall apply to the provision of educational assistance under this chapter, except that, in applying such section under this chapter, the reference to subsection (b) in paragraph (2) of such section is deemed to be a reference to subsection (c) of this section.

(f) **CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INCREASED AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**—(1)(A) Any individual eligible for educational assistance under this section may contribute amounts for purposes of receiving an increased amount of educational assistance as provided for in paragraph (2).

(B) An individual covered by subparagraph (A) may make the contributions authorized by that subparagraph at any time while a member of a reserve component, but not more frequently than monthly.

(C) The total amount of the contributions made by an individual under subparagraph (A) may not exceed \$600. Such contributions shall be made in multiples of \$20.

(D) Contributions under this subsection shall be made to the Secretary concerned. Such Secretary shall deposit any amounts received as contributions under this subsection into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

(2) Effective as of the first day of the enrollment period following the enrollment period in which an individual makes contributions under paragraph (1), the monthly amount of educational assistance allowance applicable to such individual under this section shall be the monthly rate otherwise provided for under subsection (c) increased by—

(A) an amount equal to \$5 for each \$20 contributed by such individual under paragraph (1) for an approved program of education pursued on a full-time basis; or

(B) an appropriately reduced amount based on the amount so contributed as determined under regulations that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe, for an approved program of education pursued on less than a full-time basis.

(Added Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title V, § 527(a), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1890; amended Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title V, § 539(b), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3250; Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, § 528(c), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 109.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (c)(4)(C). Pub. L. 110-181, § 528(c)(1), substituted “for—” for “for two continuous years or more.” and added cls. (i) and (ii).

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 110-181, § 528(c)(2), added subsec. (f).

2006—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 109-163 added subsec. (e).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 109-163 applicable to a licensing or certification test administered on or after Jan.

6, 2006, see section 539(c) of Pub. L. 109–163, set out as a note under section 16131 of this title.

**§ 16162a. Accelerated payment of educational assistance**

(a) **PAYMENT ON ACCELERATED BASIS.**—The educational assistance allowance payable under section 16162 of this title with respect to an eligible member described in subsection (b) may, upon the election of such eligible member, be paid on an accelerated basis in accordance with this section.

(b) **ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.**—An eligible member described in this subsection is a member of a reserve component entitled to educational assistance under this chapter who is—

(1) enrolled in an approved program of education not exceeding two years in duration and not leading to an associate, bachelors, masters, or other degree, subject to subsection (g); and

(2) charged tuition and fees for the program of education that, when divided by the number of months (and fractions thereof) in the enrollment period, exceeds the amount equal to 200 percent of the monthly rate of educational assistance allowance otherwise payable with respect to the member under section 16162 of this title.

(c) **AMOUNT OF ACCELERATED PAYMENT.**—(1) The amount of the accelerated payment of educational assistance payable with respect to an eligible member making an election under subsection (a) for a program of education shall be the lesser of—

(A) the amount equal to 60 percent of the established charges for the program of education; or

(B) the aggregate amount of educational assistance allowance to which the member remains entitled under this chapter at the time of the payment.

(2)(A) In this subsection, except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term “established charges”, in the case of a program of education, means the actual charges (as determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs) for tuition and fees which similarly circumstanced individuals who are not eligible for benefits under this chapter and who are enrolled in the program of education would be required to pay. Established charges shall be determined on the following basis:

(i) In the case of an individual enrolled in a program of education offered on a term, quarter, or semester basis, the tuition and fees charged the individual for the term, quarter, or semester.

(ii) In the case of an individual enrolled in a program of education not offered on a term, quarter, or semester basis, the tuition and fees charged the individual for the entire program of education.

(B) In this subsection, the term “established charges” does not include any fees or payments attributable to the purchase of a vehicle.

(3) The educational institution providing the program of education for which an accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance is elected by an eligible member under subsection

(a) shall certify to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the amount of the established charges for the program of education.

(d) **TIME OF PAYMENT.**—An accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance made with respect to an eligible member under this section for a program of education shall be made not later than the last day of the month immediately following the month in which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives a certification from the educational institution regarding—

(1) the member’s enrollment in and pursuit of the program of education; and

(2) the amount of the established charges for the program of education.

(e) **CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.**—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), for each accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance made with respect to an eligible member under this section, the member’s entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter shall be charged the number of months (and any fraction thereof) determined by dividing the amount of the accelerated payment by the full-time monthly rate of educational assistance allowance otherwise payable with respect to the member under section 16162 of this title as of the beginning date of the enrollment period for the program of education for which the accelerated payment is made.

(2) If the monthly rate of educational assistance allowance otherwise payable with respect to an eligible member under section 16162 of this title increases during the enrollment period of a program of education for which an accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance is made under this section, the charge to the member’s entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter shall be determined by prorating the entitlement chargeable, in the manner provided for under paragraph (1), for the periods covered by the initial rate and increased rate, respectively, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(f) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section. The regulations shall include requirements, conditions, and methods for the request, issuance, delivery, certification of receipt and use, and recovery of overpayment of an accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance under this section. The regulations may include such elements of the regulations prescribed under section 3014A of title 38 as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs considers appropriate for purposes of this section.

(g) **LIMITATION.**—The aggregate amount of educational assistance payable under this section in any fiscal year for enrollments covered by subsection (b)(1) may not exceed \$3,000,000.

(Added Pub. L. 110–181, div. A, title V, § 528(b)(1), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 107.)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Pub. L. 110–181, div. A, title V, § 528(b)(3), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 109, provided that: “The amendments made by this subsection [enacting this section] shall take effect on October 1, 2008, and shall only apply to initial enrollments in approved programs of education after such date.”

**§ 16163. Eligibility for educational assistance**

(a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—On or after September 11, 2001, a member of a reserve component is entitled to educational assistance under this chapter if the member—

(1) served on active duty in support of a contingency operation for 90 consecutive days or more; or

(2) in the case of a member of the Army National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States, performed full time National Guard duty under section 502(f) of title 32 for 90 consecutive days or more when authorized by the President or Secretary of Defense for the purpose of responding to a national emergency declared by the President and supported by Federal funds.

(b) **DISABLED MEMBERS.**—Notwithstanding the eligibility requirements in subsection (a), a member who was ordered to active service as prescribed under subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2) but is released from duty before completing 90 consecutive days because of an injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty shall be entitled to educational assistance under this chapter at the rate prescribed in section 16162(c)(4)(A) of this title.

(c) **WRITTEN NOTIFICATION.**—(1) Each member who becomes entitled to educational assistance under subsection (a) shall be given a statement in writing prior to release from active service that summarizes the provisions of this chapter and stating clearly and prominently the substance of section 16165 of this title as such section may apply to the member.

(2) At the request of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary concerned shall transmit a notice of entitlement for each such member to that Secretary.

(d) **BAR FROM DUAL ELIGIBILITY.**—A member who qualifies for educational assistance under this chapter may not receive credit for such service under both the program established by chapter 30 of title 38 and the program established by this chapter but shall make an irrevocable election (in such form and manner as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may prescribe) as to the program to which such service is to be credited.

(e) **BAR FROM DUPLICATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE.**—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), an individual entitled to educational assistance under this chapter who is also eligible for educational assistance under chapter 1606 of this title, chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of title 38, or under the Hostage Relief Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-449; 5 U.S.C. 5561 note) may not receive assistance under more than one such program and shall elect (in such form and manner as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may prescribe) under which program the member elects to receive educational assistance.

(2) The restriction on duplication of educational assistance under paragraph (1) does not apply to the entitlement of educational assistance under section 16131(i) of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title V, § 527(a), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1892; amended Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title V, § 540(a), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3251; Pub. L. 110-252, title V, § 5003(b)(1)(C),

June 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 2375; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title X, § 1073(a)(36), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2474.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The Hostage Relief Act of 1980, referred to in subsec. (e)(1), is Pub. L. 96-449, Oct. 14, 1980, 94 Stat. 1967, as amended, which was formerly set out as a note under section 5561 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

**AMENDMENTS**

2009—Subsec. (e)(1). Pub. L. 111-84 substituted “such program” for “such programs”.

2008—Subsec. (e)(1). Pub. L. 110-252 inserted “33,” after “32,”.

2006—Subsec. (e)(1). Pub. L. 109-163 substituted “Secretary of Veterans Affairs” for “Secretary concerned”.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT**

Pub. L. 110-252, title V, § 5003(d), June 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 2378, provided that: “This section [enacting chapter 33 of Title 38, Veterans’ Benefits, amending this section and sections 3033, 3485, 3688 to 3690, 3692, 3695, 3697, and 3697A of Title 38, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 3301 of Title 38] and the amendments made by this section shall take effect on August 1, 2009.”

**§ 16163a. Authority to transfer unused education benefits to family members**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the provisions of this section, the Secretary concerned may permit, at such Secretary’s sole discretion, a member described in subsection (b) who is entitled to basic educational assistance under this chapter to elect to transfer to one or more of the dependents specified in subsection (c) a portion of such member’s entitlement to such assistance, subject to the limitation under subsection (d).

(b) **ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.**—A member referred to in subsection (a) is a member of the armed forces who, at the time of the approval of the member’s request to transfer entitlement to basic educational assistance under this section, has completed at least—

(1) six years of service in the armed forces and enters into an agreement to serve at least four more years as a member of the armed forces; or

(2) the years of service as determined in regulations pursuant to subsection (j).

(c) **ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS.**—A member approved to transfer an entitlement to basic educational assistance under this section may transfer the member’s entitlement as follows:

(1) To the member’s spouse.

(2) To one or more of the member’s children.

(3) To a combination of the individuals referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(d) **LIMITATION ON MONTHS OF TRANSFER.**—The total number of months of entitlement transferred by a member under this section may not exceed 36 months. The Secretary of Defense may prescribe regulations that would limit the months of entitlement that may be transferred under this section to no less than 18 months.

(e) **DESIGNATION OF TRANSFEREE.**—A member transferring an entitlement to basic educational assistance under this section shall—

(1) designate the dependent or dependents to whom such entitlement is being transferred;

(2) designate the number of months of such entitlement to be transferred to each such dependent; and

(3) specify the period for which the transfer shall be effective for each dependent designated under paragraph (1).

(f) **TIME FOR TRANSFER; REVOCATION AND MODIFICATION.**—(1) Subject to the time limitation for use of entitlement under section 16164, a member approved to transfer entitlement to basic educational assistance under this section may transfer such entitlement only while serving as a member of the armed forces when the transfer is executed.

(2) A member transferring entitlement under this section may modify or revoke at any time the transfer of any unused portion of the entitlement so transferred. The modification or revocation of the transfer of entitlement under this paragraph shall be made by the submittal of written notice of the action to both the Secretary concerned and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(3) Entitlement transferred under this section may not be treated as marital property, or the asset of a marital estate, subject to division in a divorce or other civil proceeding.

(g) **COMMENCEMENT OF USE.**—A dependent to whom entitlement to basic educational assistance is transferred under this section may not commence the use of the transferred entitlement until—

(1) in the case of entitlement transferred to a spouse, the completion by the member making the transfer of at least—

(A) six years of service in the armed forces; or

(B) the years of service as determined in regulations pursuant to subsection (j); or

(2) in the case of entitlement transferred to a child, both—

(A) the completion by the member making the transfer of at least—

(i) ten years of service in the armed forces; or

(ii) the years of service as determined in regulations pursuant to subsection (j); and

(B) either—

(i) the completion by the child of the requirements of a secondary school diploma (or equivalency certificate); or

(ii) the attainment by the child of 18 years of age.

(h) **ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.**—(1) The use of any entitlement to basic educational assistance transferred under this section shall be charged against the entitlement of the member making the transfer at the rate of one month for each month of transferred entitlement that is used.

(2) Except as provided under subsection (e)(2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), a dependent to whom entitlement is transferred under this section is entitled to basic educational assistance under this chapter in the same manner as the member from whom the entitlement was transferred.

(3) The monthly rate of educational assistance payable to a dependent to whom entitlement is

transferred under this section shall be the monthly amount payable under sections 16162 and 16162a to the member making the transfer.

(4) The death of a member transferring an entitlement under this section shall not affect the use of the entitlement by the dependent to whom the entitlement is transferred.

(5) Notwithstanding section 16164(a)(2), a child to whom entitlement is transferred under this section may use the benefit without regard to the 10-year delimiting date, but may not use any entitlement so transferred after attaining the age of 26 years.

(6) The administrative provisions of this chapter shall apply to the use of entitlement transferred under this section, except that the dependent to whom the entitlement is transferred shall be treated as the eligible member for purposes of such provisions.

(7) The purposes for which a dependent to whom entitlement is transferred under this section may use such entitlement shall include the pursuit and completion of the requirements of a secondary school diploma (or equivalency certificate).

(i) **OVERPAYMENT.**—

(1) **JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY.**—In the event of an overpayment of basic educational assistance with respect to a dependent to whom entitlement is transferred under this section, the dependent and the member making the transfer shall be jointly and severally liable to the United States for the amount of the overpayment for purposes of section 3685 of title 38.

(2) **FAILURE TO COMPLETE SERVICE AGREEMENT.**—Except as provided in paragraph (3), if an individual transferring entitlement under this section fails to complete the service agreed to by the individual under subsection (b)(1) in accordance with the terms of the agreement of the individual under that subsection, the amount of any transferred entitlement under this section that is used by a dependent of the individual as of the date of such failure shall be treated as an overpayment of educational assistance under paragraph (1).

(3) Paragraph (2) shall not apply in the case of an individual who fails to complete service agreed to by the individual—

(A) by reason of the death of the individual; or

(B) for a reason referred to in section 16133(b).

(j) **REGULATIONS.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall prescribe regulations for purposes of this section.

(2) Such regulations shall specify—

(A) the manner of authorizing the transfer of entitlements under this section;

(B) the eligibility criteria in accordance with subsection (b); and

(C) the manner and effect of an election to modify or revoke a transfer of entitlement under subsection (f)(2).

(k) **SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.**—For purposes of this section, the term “Secretary concerned” has the meaning given in section 101(a)(9) in the case of a member of the armed forces.

(Added Pub. L. 110-252, title V, § 5006(c), June 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 2383; amended Pub. L. 111-383, div. A, title X, § 1075(b)(56), Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4372.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2011—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 111-383 substituted “subsection (j)” for “section (j)”.

### § 16164. Time limitation for use of entitlement

(a) DURATION OF ENTITLEMENT.—Except as provided in subsection (b), a member remains entitled to educational assistance under this chapter—

(1) while the member is serving—

(A) in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve, in the case of a member called or ordered to active service while serving in the Selected Reserve; or

(B) in the Ready Reserve, in the case of a member ordered to active duty while serving in the Ready Reserve (other than the Selected Reserve); and

(2) in the case of a person who separates from the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve after completion of a period of active service described in section 16163 of this title and completion of a service contract under honorable conditions, during the 10-year period beginning on the date on which the person separates from the Selected Reserve.

(b) DURATION OF ENTITLEMENT FOR DISABLED MEMBERS.—(1) In the case of a person who is separated from the Ready Reserve because of a disability which was not the result of the individual's own willful misconduct incurred on or after the date on which such person became entitled to educational assistance under this chapter, such person's entitlement to educational assistance expires at the end of the 10-year period beginning on the date on which such person became entitled to such assistance.

(2) The provisions of subsections (d) and (f) of section 3031 of title 38 shall apply to the period of entitlement prescribed by paragraph (1).

(Added Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title V, § 527(a), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1892; amended Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, § 530(a)(1), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 110; Pub. L. 110-417, [div. A], title V, § 546(a), Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4466.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 110-181 substituted “this chapter—” and pars. (1) and (2) for “this chapter while serving—

“(1) in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve, in the case of a member called or ordered to active service while serving in the Selected Reserve; or

“(2) in the Ready Reserve, in the case of a member ordered to active duty while serving in the Ready Reserve (other than the Selected Reserve).”

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 110-417 substituted “honorable conditions” for “other than dishonorable conditions”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 110-417, [div. A], title V, § 546(b), Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4466, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 14, 2008] and shall apply to a person described in section 16163 of title 10, United States Code, who—

“(1) separates from a reserve component on or after January 28, 2008, the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 [Pub. L. 110-181]; and

“(2) as of the date of the enactment of this Act, has not used any of the person's entitlement to educational assistance under chapter 1607 of such title.” Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, § 530(c), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 110, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 16165 of this title] shall take effect as of October 28, 2004, as if included in the enactment of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108-375), to which such amendments relate.”

### § 16165. Termination of assistance

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), educational assistance may not be provided under this chapter, or if being provided under this chapter, shall be terminated—

(1) if the member is receiving financial assistance under section 2107 of this title as a member of the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program; or

(2) when the member separates from the Ready Reserve as provided in section 16164(a)(1) of this title, or upon completion of the period provided for in section 16164(a)(2) of this title, as applicable.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, educational assistance may be provided under this chapter to a member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve who incurs a break in service in the Selected Reserve if the member continues to serve in the Ready Reserve during and after such break in service.

(Added Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title V, § 527(a), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1893; amended Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title V, § 540(b), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3251; Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, § 530(a)(2), (b), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 110.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 110-181, § 530(a)(2), amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (2) read as follows: “when the member separates from the Ready Reserve, as provided for under section 16164(a)(1) or section 16164(a)(2), as applicable, of this title.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 110-181, § 530(b), struck out “of not more than 90 days” after “in the Selected Reserve”.

2006—Pub. L. 109-163 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, substituted “Except as provided in subsection (b), educational assistance” for “Educational assistance”, and added subsec. (b).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 110-181 effective as of Oct. 28, 2004, as if included in the enactment of Pub. L. 108-375 to which such amendment related, see section 530(c) of Pub. L. 110-181, set out as a note under section 16164 of this title.

### § 16166. Administration of program

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—Educational assistance under this chapter shall be provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs, under agreements to be entered into by the Secretary of Defense, and by the Secretary of Homeland Security, with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Such agreements shall include administrative procedures to ensure the prompt and timely

transfer of funds from the Secretary concerned to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the making of payments under this chapter.

(b) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.—Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the provisions of sections 503, 511, 3470, 3471, 3474, 3476, 3482(g), 3483, and 3485 of title 38 and the provisions of subchapters I and II of chapter 36 of such title (with the exception of sections 3686(a), 3687, and 3692) shall be applicable to the provision of educational assistance under this chapter. The term “eligible veteran” and the term “person”, as used in those provisions, shall be deemed for the purpose of the application of those provisions to this chapter to refer to a person eligible for educational assistance under this chapter.

(c) FLIGHT TRAINING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may approve the pursuit of flight training (in addition to a course of flight training that may be approved under section 3680A(b) of title 38) by an individual entitled to educational assistance under this chapter if—

(1) such training is generally accepted as necessary for the attainment of a recognized vocational objective in the field of aviation;

(2) the individual possesses a valid private pilot certificate and meets, on the day the member begins a course of flight training, the medical requirements necessary for a commercial pilot certificate; and

(3) the flight school courses meet Federal Aviation Administration standards for such courses and are approved by the Federal Aviation Administration and the State approving agency.

(d) TRUST FUND.—Amounts for payments for benefits under this chapter shall be derived from the Department of Defense Education Benefits Fund under section 2006 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 108–375, div. A, title V, §527(a), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1893.)

#### CHAPTER 1608—HEALTH PROFESSIONS STIPEND PROGRAM

Sec.	
16201.	Financial assistance: health-care professionals in reserve components.
16202.	Reserve service: required active duty for training.
16203.	Penalties and limitations.
16204.	Regulations.

#### § 16201. Financial assistance: health-care professionals in reserve components

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—For the purpose of obtaining adequate numbers of commissioned officers in the reserve components who are qualified in health professions, the Secretary of each military department may establish and maintain a program to provide financial assistance under this chapter to persons engaged in training that leads to a degree in medicine or dentistry or training in a health professions specialty that is critically needed in wartime. Under such a program, the Secretary concerned may agree to pay a financial stipend to persons engaged in health care education and training in return for a commitment to subsequent service in the Ready Reserve.

(b) MEDICAL AND DENTAL SCHOOL STUDENTS.—(1) Under the stipend program under this chap-

ter, the Secretary of the military department concerned may enter into an agreement with a person who—

(A) is eligible to be appointed as an officer in a reserve component;

(B) is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment in an institution in a course of study that results in a degree in medicine or dentistry;

(C) signs an agreement that, unless sooner separated, the person will—

(i) complete the educational phase of the program;

(ii) accept a reappointment or redesignation within the person's reserve component, if tendered, based upon the person's health profession, following satisfactory completion of the educational and intern programs; and

(iii) participate in a residency program; and

(D) if required by regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, agrees to apply for, if eligible, and accept, if offered, residency training in a health profession skill which has been designated by the Secretary of Defense as a critically needed wartime skill.

(2) Under the agreement—

(A) the Secretary of the military department concerned shall agree to pay the participant a stipend, in the amount determined under subsection (g), for the period or the remainder of the period that the student is satisfactorily progressing toward a degree in medicine or dentistry while enrolled in an accredited medical or dental school;

(B) the participant shall not be eligible to receive such stipend before appointment, designation, or assignment as an officer for service in the Ready Reserve;

(C) the participant shall be subject to such active duty requirements as may be specified in the agreement and to active duty in time of war or national emergency as provided by law for members of the Ready Reserve; and

(D) the participant shall agree to serve in the Selected Reserve, upon successful completion of the program, for the period of service applicable under paragraph (3).

(3)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the period for which a participant is required to serve in the Selected Reserve under the agreement pursuant to paragraph (2)(D) shall be one year for each period of six months, or part thereof, for which the participant is provided a stipend pursuant to the agreement.

(B) In the case of a participant who enters into a subsequent agreement under subsection (c) and successfully completes residency training in a specialty designated by the Secretary of Defense as a specialty critically needed by the military department in wartime, the requirement to serve in the Selected Reserve may be reduced to one year for each year, or part thereof, for which the stipend was provided while enrolled in medical or dental school.

(c) PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS IN CRITICAL WAR-TIME SPECIALTIES.—(1) Under the stipend program under this chapter, the Secretary of the military department concerned may enter into an agreement with a person who—